

Ecuador, called **Algarroba**, is a very common shrub or tree in the dry parts of the Ecuadorean coast. The pods, which are produced in great abundance, are very sweet, and form a staple food for horses, mules, and cattle. The wood is very hard and of a dark brown color. It makes fence posts, tool handles, the very best of charcoal, and is an important fire-wood on railroad engines." (Rose.)

Pyrus kawakamii (Malaceae), 46979. **Pear.** From Formosa. Seeds presented by the Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass. (Wilson No. 10876.) This pear is a native of the island of Taiwan and resembles *P. lindleyi*, from which it differs in having the leaves acute at both ends. The punctate, reddish fruits are globose and about one-third of an inch in diameter. (Adapted from Journal of the College of Science of the Imperial University, Tokyo, vol. 30, p. 99.)

Tigridia pavonia (Iridaceae), 46981. **Tiger flower.** From Casa Alvarado, Coyoacan, Mexico. Presented by Mrs. Zelia Nuttall, through Mr. Wilson Popenoe. "**Cacomite**. Among the plants used as food by the ancient Mexicans, the **cacomite** is one which has received comparatively little attention in modern times. This species is common on the slopes of the valley of Mexico, and is still used by the Indians to a limited extent. Doubtless it was of much greater importance as a foodstuff in ancient times than it is today. Mrs. Nuttall has planted in her garden a number of bulbs gathered on the hillsides near her home, and has found that they multiply rapidly and require no cultural attention. When in bloom, the plants are beautiful, their flowers varying from yellow to deep scarlet in color. As an ornamental plant the *Tigridia* is already known in other countries, but the use of its bulbs as an article of food is not common outside of Mexico. When fully developed, the bulbs are slightly less than two inches in diameter. For eating, they are usually boiled, or parboiled and fried. When boiled they are mealy and have a very agreeable flavor somewhat suggesting that of chestnuts. It is suggested by Mrs. Nuttall that the **cacomite** be given a careful trial in the southern United States as a root crop. When grown from seed it requires two seasons for the bulbs to reach maturity, but they demand very little cultural attention, and the ornamental character of the flowers should make the cultivation of the **cacomite** very attractive to those who are interested in new and rare vegetables." (Popenoe.)